

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action of December 29, 2006.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 5-13, 16-21, and 25-48 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 14-15, and 22-24 are canceled. Claims 43-48 are newly added. The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims. Applicants believe that no new matter has been added by the amendments and that a new search is not necessary.

CLAIMS

Claim 1

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 103(a) as purportedly being obvious or anticipated by Cousin et. al. (U.S. Patent 4,554,181), as discussed in the Office Action. Applicants traverse each of the 102 and 103 rejections in the Office Action and submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103 by Cousin should be withdrawn because Cousin does not teach, disclose, or suggest each and every feature of amended claim 1 above. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that claim 1 would be allowable if it incorporated the features of claim 22. In this regard, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 22, thus claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 5-11 and 21

Applicants traverse all of the 102 and 103 rejections in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that pending dependent claims 5-11 and 21 include every feature of

independent claim 1 and that the cited references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest at least the features of claim 1. Thus, pending dependent claims 5-11 and 21 are also allowable over the prior art of record. In re Fine, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 12

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 103(a) as purportedly being obvious or anticipated by Cousin et. al. (U.S. Patent 4,554,181), as discussed in the Office Action. Applicants traverse each of the 102 and 103 rejections in the Office Action and submit that the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103 by Cousin should be withdrawn because Cousin does not teach, disclose, or suggest each and every feature of amended claim 12 above. In particular, the Examiner has indicated that claim 12 would be allowable if it incorporated the features of claim 14. In this regard, claim 12 has been amended to include the features of claim 14, thus claim 12 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the rejection of claim 12 should be withdrawn.

Claims 13, 16-20, and 25-28

Applicants traverse all of the §102 and 103 rejections in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that pending dependent claims 13, 16-20, and 25-28 include every feature of independent claim 12 and that the cited references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest at least the features of claim 12. Thus, pending dependent claims 13, 16-20, and 25-28 are also allowable over the prior art of record. In re Fine, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 43

Claim 43 (previously claim 1) is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 as purportedly being obvious and anticipated by Cousin et. al. (U.S. Patent 4,554,181), as discussed in the Office Action. Claim 43 reads as follows:

A print medium, comprising:
a substrate having a fibrous component, wherein a ***cationic guanidine polymer compound*** or salt thereof and a metallic salt are each disposed within the fibrous component of the substrate, wherein the metallic salt is selected from sodium chloride, calcium nitrate, and magnesium chloride.

(Emphasis added). Applicants traverse each of the 102 and 103 rejections in the Office Action and submit that the rejection of claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103 by Cousin should be withdrawn because cousin does not teach, disclose, or suggest each and every feature of amended claim 43 above. In particular, Cousin does not teach, disclose, or suggest “a cationic guanidine polymer compound” as recited in claim 43. The Office Action notes that Cousin teaches a guanidine-formaldehyde polymer, while a cationic guanidine polymer is recited in claim 43. A guanidine-formaldehyde polymer has a different unit structure than the cationic guanidine polymer as recited in claim 43 and its dependent claims 44-47. One skilled in the art would not use the guanidine-formaldehyde polymer in place of the cationic guanidine polymer because the formaldehyde unit would likely change the reactivity and characteristics of the polymer. In addition, Cousin and Nigram (U.S. Patent Application 2003/0087112) would not be combined because the guanidine-formaldehyde polymer is distinct and different than the polymers taught in Nigram. One skilled in the art would not have the reasonable expectation of success of replacing the polymers taught by Nigram with the guanidine-formaldehyde polymer or vice versa. As mentioned above, changing the unit of formaldehyde in guanidine-formaldehyde polymer would likely change the reactivity and characteristics of the polymer. Therefore, the rejection of claim 43 should be withdrawn. It should also be noted that each of

claims 44-47 are allowable over Cousin. In addition to the reasons mentioned above, Cousin does not teach each particular cationic guanidine polymer recited in claims 44-47.

New Claim 48

Claim 48 is newly added and includes the features of claims 12 and 26, which the instant Office Action indicated is allowable. Therefore, claim 48 is in condition for allowance.

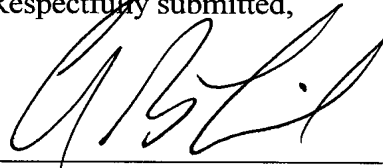
Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

In addition, any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well known since the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.B.L.', is written over a horizontal line.

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